DON'T BUY TROUBLE

When you buy or acquire an illegal wildlife product, for example as a souvenir, you are buying trouble for yourself.

Hunting, possession or trade in protected wildlife species or their derivatives is illegal and is punishable under India’s Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Violation of the law can lead to up to seven years in jail and/or a fine of INR 50,000, depending on the nature of the offence. Wildlife products made from threatened species bought outside India require permits for their importation from the Directorate of Foreign Trade under the EXIM Policy. Your souvenirs could be confiscated on your return to India and you could face legal action.

YOU CAN HELP

• Do not buy illegal wildlife products. Also discourage your family and friends from doing so.
• Help raise awareness about illegal wildlife trade. Follow and share news, stories and updates on social media.
• If you come across any information on illegal wildlife trade, you may contact the following:
  a. Local Forest or Police officials.
  b. Customs officials, at airports, seaports and other international transit points.
  c. Offices of the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB). WCCB is the nodal agency under Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, established with the purpose of curbing illegal wildlife trade.

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<th>New Delhi</th>
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Cover Page: Dr Salil Bhand (Arpan Elephant and Lady’s Slipper Orchid), Martin Harvey/WWF (Tiger cub)
Centre page:@include (Arpan Elephant; WWF/ASF/Kirthi Arakap) (Body Source); P. Saikumar/TRAFFIC (Black-footed Penguin); Viren Menon (Giant panda cub); Salil Bhand (Tiger skin, reptile skin/handbag and parakeet cups)
Back page: Crawford Allen/TRAFFIC (Crested Ibis); TRAFFIC (Turtle); James Morgan/WWF (Ivory handshake)
ARE YOU COMMITTING A CRIME?
**THINK BEFORE YOU BUY!**

Wildlife, in all its forms, is a vital component of the natural environment. For centuries, human activities have threatened to upset the balance of nature, for example through indiscriminate and unsustainable utilisation of wild animals for consumption as food, decorative items, clothing, jewellery, medicines and other uses. Not only are the majority of wildlife species in India legally protected, making such activities illegal, they may also have caused populations of some species to diminish to critically low levels.

Therefore "Think before you Buy"! Your actions may be violating the law and pushing wildlife species towards extinction.

Poaching of wild animals for their skins, bones and other body parts is driven by consumer demand and is frequently orchestrated by organised criminal networks. It has become one of the most severe threats to wildlife today. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), wildlife crime is the world’s fourth largest global crime, and over 7,000 wildlife species world-wide have been found in illegal wildlife trade.

In India, the trade in more than 1,800 species of wild animals, plants and their derivatives is prohibited under India’s Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. International trade is further regulated through the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)—to which more than 180 countries, including India, are Party—and under which roughly 5,000 species of animals and 30,000 species of plants are protected against over-exploitation.

![Image of wildlife products]

This is a list of commonly encountered wildlife items that are illegal to offer for sale or buy in India:

**Marine products:** Reef-building Corals, Organ-pipe Corals, Black Corals, Fire Corals, Sea Fans and other highly endangered marine species including dried seahorses and piperfish; molluscs such as Nautilus, Horse’s Hoof and Horned Helmet are sold as artefacts, curios and jewellery. One report claims that thousands of tonnes of live seashells and corals are dredged from the oceans every day—many of them protected species.

**Ivory items:** Figurines, carvings, artefacts and jewellery made from elephant tusks has endangered the future of the Asian Elephant in India and the African Elephant in Africa. ivory continues to be smuggled to destinations in Asia for carving into decorative items.

**Shahtcoosh shawls:** Three to five Tibetan Antelopes (Chirus) are slaughtered to obtain sufficient wool from their soft underbelly to produce just one shahtcoosh shawl.

**Reptile skin bags and other accessories:** Handbags, belts, wallets, shoes and other products made from the skins of protected species of reptiles including snakes, crocodiles, monitor lizards etc may be sold in clandestine markets.

**Body parts and derivatives of Tiger, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Clouded Leopard and other wild cats:** Products commonly seen in illegal wildlife trade include fur coats, wallets, scarves, traditional Chinese medicines, wine etc. Almost every part of a tiger’s body can turn up in illegal trade.

**Live birds sold as pets:** These include the various parakeets species of India, munias, Hill Mynas, falcons, shikras, Baya Weavers, bulbuls and many other protected wild bird species. More than 450 species of the approximately 1,300 Indian species have been documented in international and domestic bird trade. Also in illegal trade are non-native (exotic) species including Grey Parrots, toucans, macaws, sugarbirds and others brought illegally into India without adequate clearances. At least 110 non-native species are reported to be in trade in India.

**Turtles and tortoises:** Black Spotted Turtle, Indian Star Tortoise, Gangetic Softshell Turtle, Indian Flapshell Turtle, Indian Tent Turtle and many other species of tortoises and freshwater turtles are exploited for the illegal pet trade, medicines and meat.

**Medicinal plants and orchids:** International trade in 1,290 species of orchids, timber species and medicinal plants in their raw form such as logs, whole plants, crude drugs, oil and resinoid extracts is prohibited under India’s EXIM policy. Only value-added products such as medicines derived from a cultivated variety of specified species may be allowed for export.

**Others:** Mongoose hair paintbrushes and make-up brushes; perfume fixative, incense material, and medicine made from the musk pod of musk deer; and medicines from bear bile and pangolin body parts are also among the products illegally traded.

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**BE WISE.**
If in doubt - DON’T BUY.

Remember ignorance of the law is not an excuse.